

independent consulting firm, Booz Allen and Hamilton, Inc., is accepting applications for membership for these next three Panels between June 23 and September 11, 1998. The panels will be operational in the late Fall of 1998.

The mission of the Panels is to provide citizen input into enhancing IRS customer service by identifying problems and making recommendations for improvement with "IRS systems and procedures"; elevate the identified problems to the appropriate IRS official and monitor the progress to effect change; and refer individual taxpayers to the appropriate IRS office for assistance in resolving their problems. The Panels will consist of 7-12 volunteer members who serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Treasury and will function solely as advisory bodies.

The Panels are seeking applicants who have an interest in good government, a personal commitment to volunteer approximately 100 hours a year, and a desire to help improve IRS customer service. To the extent possible, the IRS would like to ensure a balanced Panel membership representing a cross-section of the tax paying public in the each of the Tax Districts. Potential candidates must be US citizens, legal residents one of the Tax Districts, compliant with Federal, State and Local taxes, and pass an FBI background check.

For the Citizen Advocacy Panels to be most effective, members should have experience in some of the following areas: experience helping people resolve problems with a government organization; experience formulating and presenting proposals; knowledge of taxpayer concerns; experience representing the interests of your community, state or region; experience working with people from diverse backgrounds; and experience helping people resolve disputes.

Booz Allen & Hamilton, Inc., will manage the selection process. Interested applicants should first call the following toll free number, 1-888-449-1071, and

complete the initial phone screen. If the applicant passes the phone screen and is still interested, an application package will be sent to them directly. Completed applications will be reviewed, tax background checks and FBI name checks will be conducted, and panel interviews will be conducted with the most qualified candidates. Final candidates will be ranked by experience and suitability and then the Secretary of Treasury will review the recommended candidates and make final selections.

The Brooklyn Tax District consists of the New York State counties of Kings (Borough of Brooklyn), Queens, Nassau and Suffolk. The Midwest Tax District includes the states of Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin. The Pacific Northwest Tax District includes the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

Dated: August 6, 1998.

Cathy VanHorn,

CAP Project Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program, Availability of Application Packages

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Availability of TCE Application Packages.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice of the availability of Application Packages for the 1999 Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program.

DATES: Application Packages are available from the IRS at this time. The deadline for submitting an application package to the IRS for the 1999 Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program is September 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Application Packages may be requested by contacting: Internal

Revenue Service, 5000 Ellin Road, Lanham, MD, 20706, Attention: Program Manager, Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program, OP:C:A:E:E, Building C-7, Room 166.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen Bradley, OP:C:A:E:E, Building C-7, Room 166, Internal Revenue Service, 5000 Ellin Road, Lanham, MD, 20706. The non-toll-free telephone number is: (202) 283-0188.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Authority for the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program is contained in Section 163 of the Revenue Act of 1978, Public Law 95-600, (92 Stat. 12810), November 6, 1978. Regulations were published in the **Federal Register** at 44 FR 72113 on December 13, 1979. Section 163 gives the IRS authority to enter into cooperative agreements with private or public non-profit agencies or organizations to establish a network of trained volunteers to provide free tax information and return preparation assistance to elderly individuals. Elderly individuals are defined as individuals age 60 and over at the close of their taxable year.

Cooperative agreements will be entered into based upon competition among eligible agencies and organizations. Because applications are being solicited before the FY 1999 budget has been approved, cooperative agreements will be entered into subject to appropriation of funds. Once funded, sponsoring agencies and organizations will receive a grant from the IRS for administrative expenses and to reimburse volunteers for expenses incurred in training and in providing tax return assistance. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program is referenced in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance in Section 21.006.

Jane Warriner,

National Director, Compliance, Accounts, and Quality Division.

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